

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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R 300943Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5842

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7721

E.O. 11652: XGDS2

TAGS: PINR UR

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON IVAN UDALTSOV, NEW
SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO GREECE

REF: STATE 58644

1. IN RECENT WEEKS I HAVE HAD TWO PRIVATE MEETINGS
(DIPLOMATIC CALLS) WITH AMBASSADOR IVAN UDALTSOV,
WHO ARRIVED IN ATHENS IN APRIL TO TAKE UP HIS DUTIES
AS THE AMBASSADOR OF THE USSR. ONE MEETING WAS AT
MY RESIDENCE AND ONE AT HIS, AND MY WIFE HAS ALSO MET
ON TWO SIMILAR OCCASIONS WITH MRS. UDALTSOVA. WE HAVE
ALSO HAD SEVERAL OTHER BRIEF SOCIAL CONTACTS WITH THEM
AT RECEPTIONS. THIS TELEGRAM PROVIDES THE BIOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION REQUESTED IN PARA SIX REFTEL.

2. I HAVE OBTAINED A PHOTOGRAPH OF UDALTSOV (SHAKING
HANDS WITH ME AT OUR BICENTENNIAL RECEPTION) AND AM
POUCHING IT TO EUR/SE FOR APPROPRIATE ONWARD

3. MARTIAL STATUS AND FAMILY. AS INDICATED ABOVE,
UDALTSOV IS MARRIED AND, ACCORDING TO HIM AND HIS WIFE,
THEY HAVE FOUR CHILDREN -- THREE DAUGHTERS AND ONE SON,
ALL GROWN. AT LEAST ONE OF THE DAUGHTERS, THE OLDEST,
IS MARRIED AND HAS A BABY DAUGHTER HERSELF, THE
UDALTSOV'S ONLY GRANDCHILD. IN ADDITION, THE SON WAS
MARRIED APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS AGO. MRS. UDALTSOVA
IS SHORT, HEAVY-SET, PLAIN, RELATIVELY UNSOPHISTICATED,
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AND APPEARS TO BE APPROXIMATELY 50 YEARS OLD. SHE HAS

SAID THAT SHE DOES NOT AT ALL LIKE THE "DIPLOMATIC LIFE" AND SHE DOES INDEED APPEAR TO BE VERY ILL AT EASE AT DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS.

4. FOREIGN LANGUAGE ABILITIES. UDALTSOV IS ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY AN INTERPRETER. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, HE TOLD ME THAT THE ONLY FOREIGN LANGUAGE HE KNOWS AT ALL WELL IS CZECH, ALTHOUGH HE INDICATED HE ALSO KNEW SOME POLISH. MRS. UDALTSOVA HAS SAID THAT SHE DOES NOT SPEAK OR UNDERSTAND ANY FOREIGN LANGUAGES.

5. UDALTSOV MADE NO ALLUSION OF ANY KIND TO POSSIBLE SPECIAL TIES BETWEEN HIMSELF AND TOP SOVIET LEADERS. WE DID HAVE A LIMITED DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS, HOWEVER, BEING REPORTED SEPTEL. KUBISCH

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